

**PARTNERS OUTDOORS 2009:
USING THE TRANSITION TO THRIVE**

Date: February 1-3, 2009

Location: Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay
100 Heron Boulevard at Route 50
Cambridge, Maryland 21613
(410) 901-1234 Fax (410) 901-6302

Theme: ***Using the transition – to a new Administration and a new Congress – to enhance recreation resources and opportunities.***

Participants in Partners Outdoors 2009 will be meeting immediately after the inauguration of a new U.S. President and the convening of the 111th U.S. Congress. A new Administration and a new Congress will mean changes – changes to priorities, policies and programs affecting outdoor recreation. Partners Outdoors will help the recreation community understand those changes and be prepared to function effectively in a new environment. Sessions will focus on the stakes involved in upcoming transportation-reauthorization legislation, the wide-ranging work of the Outdoor Resources Review Group, the re-positioning of recreation as a social good, the fashioning of new recreation-program tools for new challenges, and practical advice for coping with transition realities.

While the first two days of Partners Outdoors will be spent in Maryland, the third day will feature several sessions on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. with special guests from the Congress and the Administration as well as a preview of the recommendations generated during the earlier portion of the meeting.

Participation: Participation in Partners Outdoors is by invitation only and will be restricted to approximately 150 persons. Invitations are extended by sponsoring organizations, including seven federal agencies, the National Association of State Park Directors and the American Recreation Coalition. Attendees hold senior management positions in the recreation and resources fields or are identified as candidates for such posts. Confirmation of attendance, including individual room reservations at the Hyatt, is required by January 7, 2009.

Accommodations: Overnight accommodations and the first portion of the meeting will be at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay in Cambridge, Maryland, which is approximately 60 minutes from Baltimore-Washington International Airport (BWI) outside Baltimore and 85 minutes from Reagan Washington National Airport outside Washington, D.C. The 400-acre Hyatt property is located on two miles of waterfront along the scenic Choptank River, a short drive from the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, a 27,000-acre refuge for migratory waterfowl. The Hyatt also features its own wildlife refuge, as well as miles of trails. Participants are offered a special rate of \$154 single/double occupancy or, for federal employees, \$105 (or prevailing per diem) single/double occupancy. A resort fee

of \$6.00 per day per room will also be charged. *Each federal agency partner will compile a list of its participants and forward that list to the American Recreation Coalition, which will make all initial room reservations. Each participant will then be notified by ARC and asked to call the Hyatt and **provide credit-card information to finalize the reservation.*** While ARC will arrange for transportation from the Hyatt to the Capitol Hill meeting venue in Washington, D.C. on February 3rd, participants who plan to stay overnight in Washington that evening are encouraged to make their own hotel arrangements at their earliest convenience.

Transportation: The BayRunner Shuttle provides transportation between the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake and BWI airport. The one-way fare for a single individual is \$57.00; the per-person cost for groups of two or more is less. Additional information can be obtained from www.bayrunners.com or by calling (410) 912-6000. Participants flying into either BWI or Reagan Washington National Airport can also arrange transportation through Breeze Away Shuttle and Limo Service (call (410) 221-8833) for a one-way fare of \$160 from BWI or \$170 from Reagan National (group rates available on request). Rental cars are also available at both airports. At the end of the meeting, those flying out of BWI can reach the airport via MARC train (Penn Line) service between Union Station in Washington, D.C., and the BWI Rail Station (from there, free shuttles service the airport terminal). The current one-way MARC fare is \$6.00. Additional information can be obtained from www.mtmaryland.com or by calling (866) RIDE MTA. Reagan National Airport can be accessed easily from Capitol Hill via Metrorail or cab.

Tuition/Event Costs: Each participant will be charged a fee of \$450 for all materials, meals and group transportation offered in conjunction with the Partners Outdoors 2009 conference. The fee may be sent to the American Recreation Coalition (1225 New York Avenue, N.W., Suite 450, Washington, D.C. 20005) before the conference or may be paid on site at the time of registration. No refunds for cancellations will be honored after January 7, 2009. Checks should be made payable to the American Recreation Coalition. ***Provisions for guests at selected events can be arranged at an additional charge and should be requested in advance and in writing.***

Displays: There will be limited areas for the display of materials relating to partnership activities between federal agencies and for-profit enterprises. Arrangements should be made through the American Recreation Coalition at (202) 682-9530.

Expected Outcomes: Central objectives of Partners Outdoors 2009 are to (1) create a shared understanding of societal benefits available through recreational use of America's public lands and waters among public and private sector leaders in the recreation field and beyond, (2) identify "tools" to enhance outdoor recreation and extend the benefits of participation in outdoor recreation to a broader public and (3) identify program and policy areas where the recreation community can work effectively with the new Administration and the new Congress to enhance outdoor recreation. In addition, each Partners Outdoors seeks to (1) produce a

report and recommendations for presentation to federal policymakers and recreation industry CEOs and (2) initiate one or more specific pilot, partnership-based efforts linked to the theme of the specific Partners Outdoors.

Attire: Dress during the meetings at the Hyatt will be “business casual,” but recreational attire will also be appropriate at most sessions. ***Tuesday afternoon sessions in Washington will be business attire.***

September 16, 2008